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LIKE FISH OUT OF WATER . . .

EXCALIBUR™



DORAN & BLEVINS

THE POWERFUL CAPTAIN BRITAIN, THE SHAPE-CHANGING MEGGAN, THE INTANGIBLE SHADOWCAT, THE SWASHBUCKLING NIGHTCRAWLER, THE MYSTERIOUS PHOENIX, THE EVER-UNPREDICTABLE WIDGET AND LOCKHEED THE DRAGON FORGED IN THE FIRES OF THEIR TRAGIC PASTS. THEY HAVE Banded TOGETHER TO FIGHT A MODERN DAY CRUSADE AGAINST THE FORCES OF EVIL! STAN LEE PRESENTS...

EXCALIBUR STARRING CAPTAIN BRITAIN AND MEGGAN!

THE NIGHT THEY TORE DOWN THE GILDED LADY

WE DID IT!

WE
MANAGED TO
SNEAK OUT WITH-
OUT EVEN ONE OF
OUR TEAMMATES
HEARING
US!

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I THINK
NOT.
UNLESS YOU'D CARE TO
SAY "PRETTY PLEASE
WITH JAM BUTTIES
ON IT!"

AND SO
IT GOES...

NEVER!

...FROM THE WILDLY
FROTHING CELTIC
SEA, AND ON
OVER THE WEST
COAST OF
ENGLAND TO
THEIR EVENTUAL
DESTINATION--

--LONDON!

GOT
YOU!

UNHAND ME, SIRRAH, OR
I'LL BE FORCED TO SUM-
MON A CONSTABLE!

I KNEW THAT FEAR OF
THE LAW WOULD PUT THE
ROUT TO A RUFFIAN
LIKE YOURSELF!

DON'T
LOOK
NOW,
BRIAN,
BUT--

--I WIN!

FOR A WINNER, YOU
DON'T LOOK VERY
HAPPY ALL OF A
SUDDEN...

IT'S THESE
DARNED
SLIPPERS--

--HOW YOU PEOPLE
ABIDE CONFINING
YOUR FEET IN
SUCH THINGS, I'LL
NEVER KNOW!



BUT, I GUESS
IT'S A SMALL
PRICE TO PAY FOR AN EVENING
IN "CIVILIZED"
COMPANY...

TWO MINUTES AGO,
I WAS AN UNCOUTH
RUFFIAN, MEGGAN,
REMEMBER?

R.I.P.
THE
Gilded Lady

WHICHEVER,
I'M STILL GLAD
YOU ASKED ME
ALONG FOR
THE WAKE.



I DON'T HAVE THAT MANY OLD FRIENDS LEFT THAT I CAN LET ONE GO UNMOURNED.



SPEAKING OF WHICH, WHO DO I SEE APPROACHING BUT MY BOSSOM MATE AND CONFIDANTE OF MANY A DULL EVENING'S DISCOURSE--

--THE LADY'S NOBLE LANDLORD, BRENDAN O'REILLY!

HELLO, BRENDAN, YOU OLD SCALLIWAG! HOW HAVE YOU BEEN KEEPING YOURSELF LATELY?



HULLO, STRANGERS. WHAT'LL YE HAVE?

CLEARLY, POOR BRIAN DOESN'T LOOK AS LARGE IN O'REILLY'S MEMORIES AS HE DOES IN BRIAN'S...

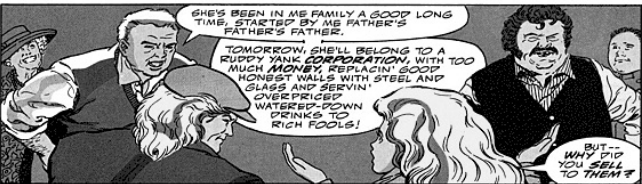
MR. O'REILLY, WHY ARE YOU SELLING THE LADY?



SHE'S BEEN IN ME FAMILY A GOOD LONG TIME, STARTED BY ME FATHER'S FATHER.

TOMORROW, SHE'LL BELONG TO A RUDDY YANK CORPORATION, WITH TOO MUCH MONEY, REPLACIN' GOOD HONEST WALLS WITH STEEL AND GLASS AND SERVIN' OVERPRICED WATERED-DOWN DRINKS TO RICH FOOLS!

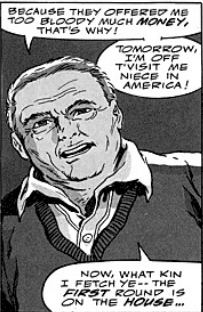
BUT-- WHY DID YOU SELL TO THEM?



BECAUSE THEY OFFERED ME TOO BLOODY MUCH MONEY, THAT'S WHY!

TOMORROW, I'M OFF T'VISIT ME NIECE IN AMERICA!

NOW, WHAT KIN I FETCH YE-- THE FIRST ROUND IS ON THE HOUSE...



I'D LIKE TO TRY SOME LAGER.

LEMON-ADE.



BLARSTED, FANCY-PANTSED, UPPER-CLASS PONCE...

IF IT'S ANY CONSOLATION, BRIAN...



--I THINK YOU JUST DISAP-
POINTED ME, O'REILLY AS
BADLY AS HE DID YOU.

FINE THING
WHEN A MAN
CAN'T DRINK
ANYMORE...



THERE,
THERE, I'M OFF
TO THE LOO.

'EY, O'REILLY--WHO ORDER-
ED THE SUGAR WATER?
THE LADY WIT' THE HAIR?

NAW, TIM, NOT 'ER,
THE BLOAK WHAT'S
WITH 'ER.

'OO? THE
GRAND
DUKE
OVER
THERE?

RUN THESE OVER TO 'IM,
WOULD YE, TIM? ME
AMERICAN BUYER HAS
JUST COME IN.

I GOT TO
SIGN THE
FINAL SALE
PAPERS.

SURE,
BRENDAN,
SURE, ME
AND THE
BOYS'LL SEE
TO THE LAD.

KIN I BRING YE A WEE DROP
O'SOMETHIN', MR. ASER-
NATHY?

NO, THANK YOU, I HAVE
THE CONTRACTS HERE,
IF YOU'LL JUST LOOK
THEM OVER...

MAYBE THIS WASN'T SUCH
A GOOD IDEA, IT SEEMS
YOU CAN'T GO HOME AGAIN.

I CAN'T EVEN DRINK ANY-
MORE... I DON'T KNOW WHEN
TO STOP. ONE DRINK IS
TOO MANY, AND A HUNDRED
NOT ENOUGH!



DRINK UP,
M'LAD!

SLAM!

WAK!





MY BROTHER HERE HAS A BIT OF A TOUCHY STOMACH, BUT I'LL GLADLY MATCH YOU TOAST FOR TOAST!

MEG-GAN?!



TO THE LADY... HURRAH!

SHE'S USED HER SHAPE-SHIFTING ABILITY TO TRANSFORM INTO MY VIRTUAL TWIN!



YOU'VE TOUCHED ME HEART WITH YOUR DISPLAY OF CONVIVIALITY, YOUNG GENTLEMAN.

PLEASE ALLOW ME TOFFER UP THE NEXT TOAST...



...TO THE LADY'S OWN BRENDAN O'REILLY-- A GENEROUS HAND WITH A TIPPLE!

TO O'REILLY!

ONE THING WORRIES ME... MEGGAN'S NEVER IMBIBED BEFORE--



SAY, BRIAN...

--WHAT EFFECT MIGHT THE LIQUOR HAVE ON HER SYSTEM?



...WOULD IT SPOIL THE ACT IF I WAS TO GET SICK ALL OVER MYSELF?

SIT DOWN BEFORE...

ATTENTION, PLEASE!

HELLO,
EVERY-
ONE!

I'M COOTER
AND THIS IS
MY COUSIN,
BASH.



BASH AND I WERE
PROSPECTING FOR
GOLD IN THE NORTH
COUNTRY RECENTLY,
WHEN WE MADE A
RICH STRIKE!



TOUCHED BY THIS
SOLEMN OCCASION,
AND WEALTHY BE-
YOND ALL OUR DREAMS,
WE'VE DECIDED TO
SHARE OUR GOOD
FORTUNE WITH ALL
OF YOU!



JUST TAKE A GANDER
AT THESE GLITTERING
BEAUTIES!

AND
THEY'RE
FOR SALE--
CHEAP!

LADY, THEM
AIN'T NO-
THIN' BUT
ORDINARY
ROCKS!



NO.

THEY'RE
GOLD
NUGGETS!



WE'RE SELLING THIS SACK OF NUGGETS CHEAP TO OUR POOR FRIENDS, IN ORDER TO SPREAD THE WEALTH AROUND...



...ANY TAKERS?



...LET'S SEE NOW, AT TEN POUNDS A PIECE, YOU GET FIVE MEDIUM SIZED ONES--

ARE YA ALL **DAFT**? 'TIS NOTHIN' BUT PLAIN OLD RIVER **PEBBLES** YER'RE WASTIN' YER MONEY ON!



SIR, SOME TIME AGO, I DISCOVERED THAT I POSSESS THE ABILITY TO **AMPLIFY** OTHER PEOPLE'S **GREED**, MAKING THEM SUGGESTIBLE TO SEEING WHAT THEIR **GREED** **WANTS** THEM TO SEE.



ONCE IN A WHILE, I ENCOUNTER SOMEONE **TOO HONEST**, OR POSSESSED OF **TOO LITTLE IMAGINATION** TO RESPOND TO MY MANIPULATION--



(I SUSPECT THE LATTER IN YOUR CASE.)

--THAT'S WHERE MY COUSIN COMES IN--

OH, BASH...

HMMM, ANOTHER SATISFIED CUSTOMER!











NO MORE MISTER NICE GUY!



THIS HAS ALL GONE WRONG!



THOSE MEN--

--CRINGING OUT OF THE LINE OF BATTLE--



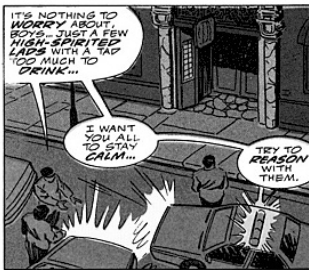
A GENUINE MERMAID! EASILY WORTH A FORTUNE AT ANY ZOO!

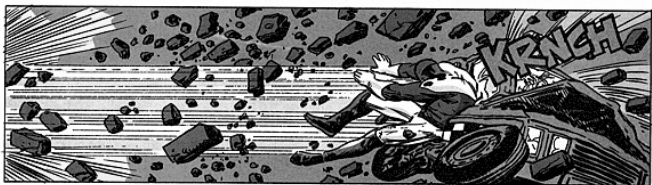


WHAT ARE WE WAITIN' FOR?

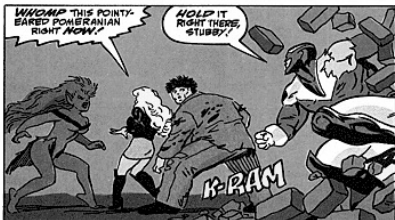
GRAB HER!

BUT, THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE --ISN'T IT?

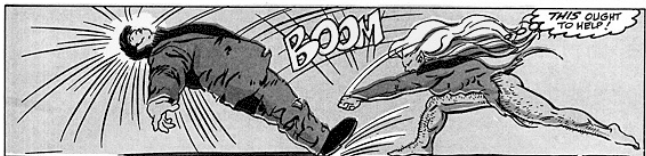














AND THAT'S THE END OF THAT, MEGGAN GIRL...

... THE GILDED LADY HAS BREATHED HER LAST.

SO HAS THIS COSTUME OF MINE!



I SUGGEST YOU FIND SOME EXTRA HEAVY ROPE TO TRUSS THIS FELLOW UP, OFFICERS...
...OR I WOULDN'T CARE TO BE IN YOUR SHOES WHEN HE WAKES UP!

I DON'T SUPPOSE YOU'D CARE TO TEAR UP OUR LITTLE CONTRACT OF SALE, MR. O'REILLY?

NOT LIKELY, AN' BOY!



LATER...



WE'VE GOT THE STRONG ONE BOUND UP LIKE A CHRISTMAS GOOSE IN THE BACK OF OUR CAR...



... APPARENTLY, HE'S A LOCAL DISTANT COUSIN OF MINE.

SHE CLAIMS TO BE AN AMERICAN COLLEGE STUDENT...

"CLAIMS" NOTHING!



I RAN OUT OF MONEY ON VACATION, AND DECIDED TO USE MY PECULIAR "TALENT" TO RAISE FUNDS FOR THE TRIP HOME.

IS THAT WRONG?

YES!



THEN PERHAPS YOU'D LIKE TO TELL ME WHAT I'M CHARGED WITH.

LEGALLY, IF PEOPLE WANT TO SPEND THEIR MONEY ON WORTHLESS ROCKS, THAT'S THEIR BUSINESS...

--ISN'T IT?

SOON...



OOOOUUHH!

THE NERVE
OF THAT
WOMAN!

NOW, MEGGAN-- YOU'VE GOT TO
REALIZE THAT GREED DOES
STRANGE THINGS TO MOST
PEOPLE!



OOH, ME POOR
OLD LADY, I MISS
HER ALREADY, I--

WHAT'S THAT
GLEAM I SPY
AMIDST THE
WRECKAGE?

A GOLD
BRICK?!



SAINTS ALIVE/INSIDE,
THEY'RE ALL SOLID
GOLD!



THOSE ARE MY BRICKS,
YOU SWINE!

NOT ANY
MORE--LOOK,
I'M TEARIN'
UP THE
CONTRACT!

OFFICERS! STOP THAT MAN!
HE'S STEALING MY BRICKS!



BUG OFF! I
JUST QUIT
THE FORCE--

--I'M A
RICH MAN!

YOU AWAKE
YET, BASH?

MMPH...



THOSE GREEDY FOOLS
ARE GOING TO BE MIGHTY
DISAPPOINTED WHEN
THE ILLUSION WEARS
OFF.



WHAT DO
YOU SAY
COUSIN?

DO YOU FANCY A
TRIP TO AMERICA?

SPUTTER!
SPUT!
SPUT!

GRNXX
SPUT

END

BEASTCHARMING SAYS:



BUY WHAT
YOU LIKE!

WORDS TO LIVE B(U)Y!